



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/

For Immediate Release
February 11, 2004

Contact: Emily Carney
517-373-1725

Legislators launch Family and Marriage Preservation Plan

Lansing – State Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, joined legislative colleagues at the Capitol Tuesday to launch the Family and Marriage Preservation Plan.

The plan is a seven-bill bipartisan package which promotes strong marriages, strong families and a strong Michigan.

McManus is sponsoring Senate Bill 959, which would allow retired clergy and other religious practitioners with adequate experience to continue providing marital or premarital counseling without applying for a counseling license from the state.

“Faith-based institutions play an important role in marriage preparation and counseling,” McManus said. “This will help them to continue their ministry to Michigan families.”

The bill also clarifies the law to allow a church to have a full-time "marriage or family life" pastor/counselor.

Senate Bill 959 was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

###